PLASTIC MAN
ANC
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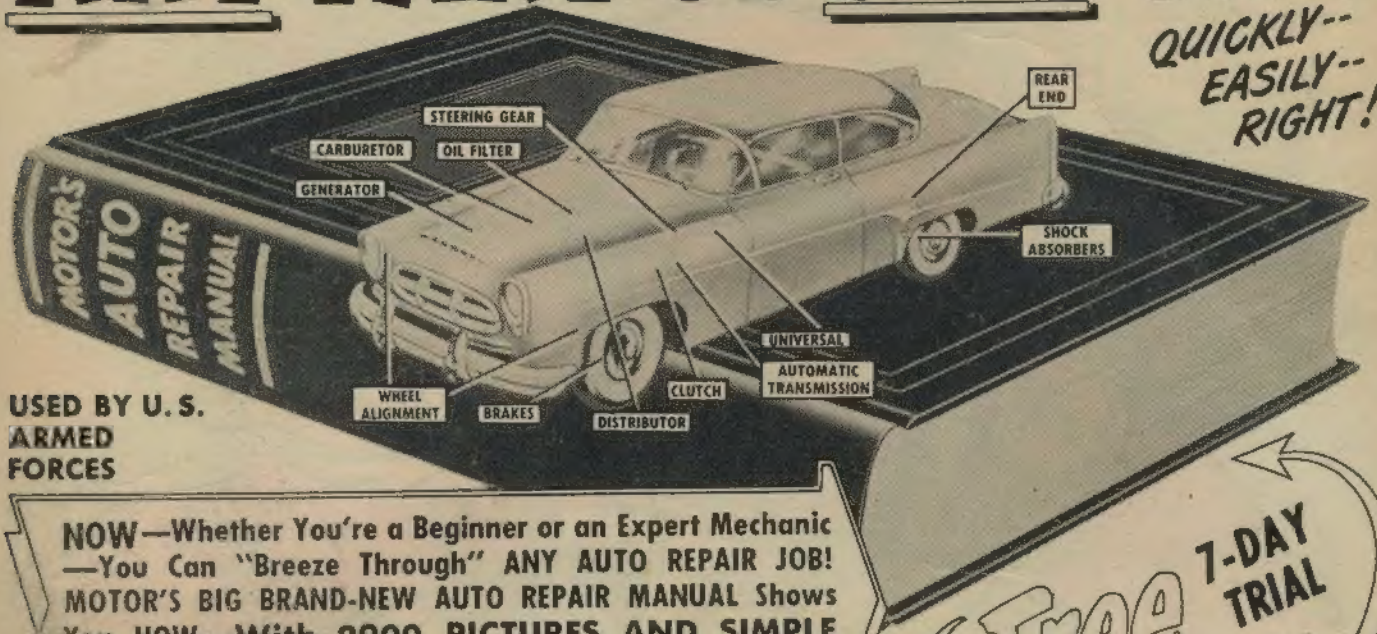
THE CHEMIST'S CAULDRON
A QUALITY COMIC PUBLICATION
DECEMBER
No. 57
10c

HOW TO FIX

Brakes, Clutches, Transmissions, Rear Ends, Carburetors—*Yes,*

ANY PART OF ANY CAR

QUICKLY-- EASILY-- RIGHT!



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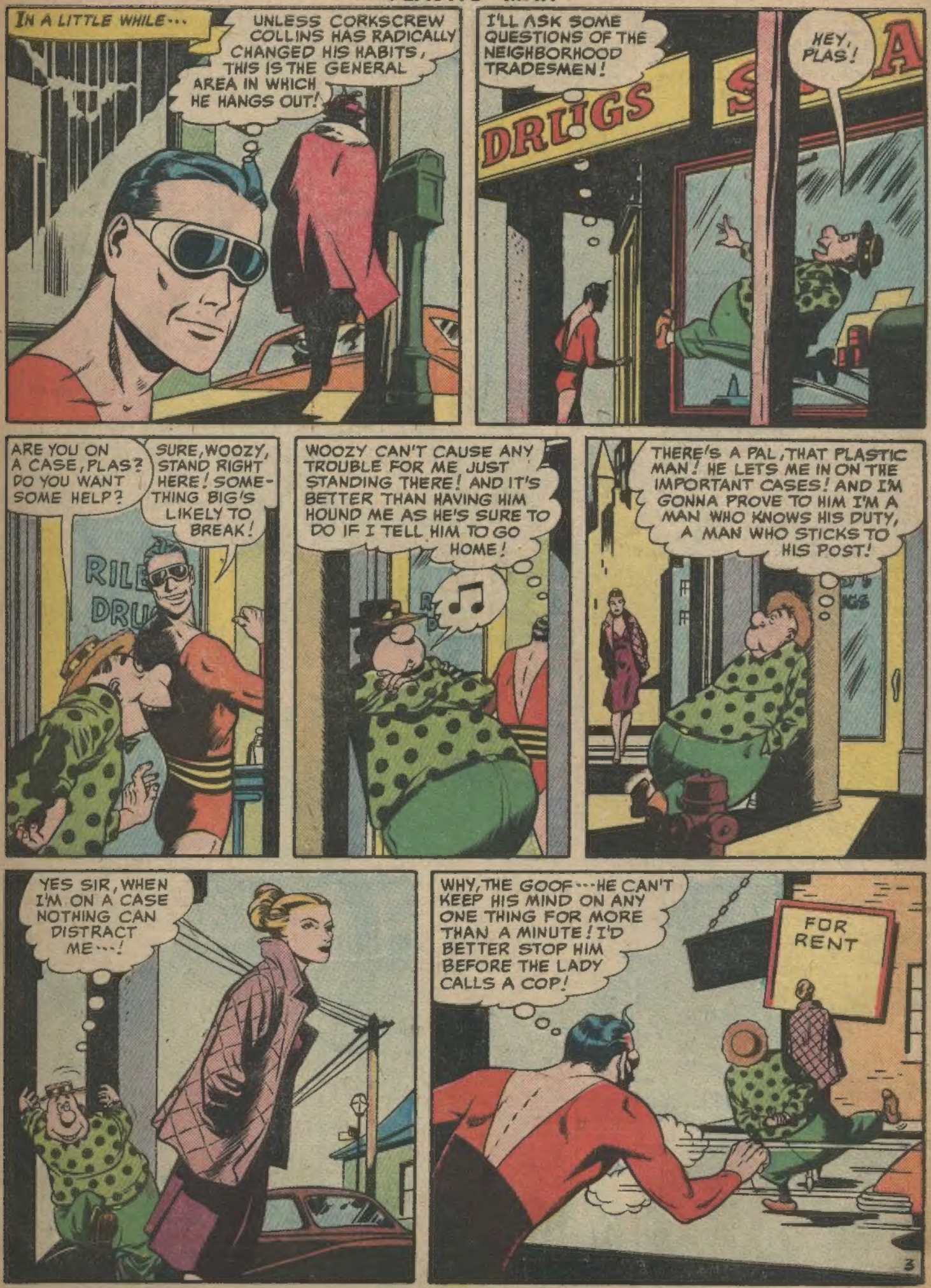
PLASTIC MAN
HA! IT SAYS THAT FROM THIS BREW I CAN EXPECT A SURPRISE THAT WILL MAKE ME SEE CRIME IN A NEW LIGHT!
CORKSCREW COLLINS WAS LOOKING FOR A FAST BUCK, WINTHROP SNAVELY WAS LOOKING FOR A MAGIC FORMULA AND WOOZY WINKS WAS LOOKING FOR DEVASTATING DINAH! TOGETHER THEY HAD PLASTIC MAN IN AN AWFUL MIXUP IN ...
THE CHEMIST'S CAULDRON!

TROUBLE IS WE HAVE NO CONCRETE EVIDENCE AGAINST CORKSCREW COLLINS! SO THE ONLY WAY TO LAND HIM IS EITHER TO GET A CONFESSION FROM HIM OR CATCH HIM RED HANDED NEXT TIME HE PULLS SOMETHING!
OR BOTH!
CHIEF BRANNER
THAT WOULD BE FINE! NEVER WAS A CROOK SO FULL OF CHICANERY, LARCENY AND MISCHIEF! HE'S WELL NAMED!
NOBODY EVER HEARD OF A CORK-SCREW FUNCTIONING FROM THE INSIDE OF A JUG···AND THAT'S WHERE I INTEND TO TO PUT COLLINS!
MEANWHILE···
IT SAYS HERE THAT WINTHROP SNAVELY, THE MILLIONAIRE DILLETANTE, HAS A NEW HOBBY! HE IS TRYING TO FIND A FORMULA THAT WILL HAVE CONJURING POWERS! HE BELIEVES THE ANCIENT SORCERERS HAD THE RIGHT IDEA!
SO?
HE'S SPENT A FORTUNE ON A SORCERER'S LABORATORY AND HE INTENDS TO SPEND EVEN MORE TO FIND THE MAGIC FORMULA!
ALAS! POOR DEVASTATING DINAH'S DOWN TO THREE MEASLY MINK COATS AND THAT PLAYBOYS JUST THROWING HIS MONEY AWAY! THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME WAY TO PART HIM FROM IT!
THERE IS, DEVASTATING DINAH! BEHOLD!
BUT WINTHROP SNAVELY WILL WANT PROOF THAT IT WORKS!
TALCUM
2
HEH! HEH! WITH YOUR CO-OPERATION, BABY, IT'LL BE A CINCH TO GIVE IT TO HIM!
GOODY! THERE'S A NEW BLUE MINK COAT THAT'S GOING TO BE HANGING IN MY CLOSET··· I JUST KNOW IT! IN FACT I'M GOING OUT TO ORDER IT RIGHT NOW!
OKAY, BUT BE SURE TO MEET ME IN AN HOUR··· USUAL PLACE! I'LL NEED YOU!
I'LL BE THERE, CORKSCREW HONEY!


IN A LITTLE WHILE...
UNLESS CORKSCREW COLLINS HAS RADICALLY CHANGED HIS HABITS, THIS IS THE GENERAL AREA IN WHICH HE HANGS OUT!
I'LL ASK SOME QUESTIONS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD TRADESMEN!
DRUGS
HEY, PLAS!
ARE YOU ON A CASE, PLAS? DO YOU WANT SOME HELP?
SURE, WOOZY, STAND RIGHT HERE! SOMETHING BIG'S LIKELY TO BREAK!
WOOZY CAN'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE FOR ME JUST STANDING THERE! AND IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING HIM HOUND ME AS HE'S SURE TO DO IF I TELL HIM TO GO HOME!
THERE'S A PAL, THAT PLASTIC MAN! HE LETS ME IN ON THE IMPORTANT CASES! AND I'M GONNA PROVE TO HIM I'M A MAN WHO KNOWS HIS DUTY, A MAN WHO STICKS TO HIS POST!
YES SIR, WHEN I'M ON A CASE NOTHING CAN DISTRACT ME...!
WHY, THE GOOF...HE CAN'T KEEP HIS MIND ON ANY ONE THING FOR MORE THAN A MINUTE! I'D BETTER STOP HIM BEFORE THE LADY CALLS A COP!
FOR RENT
3

UH-OH! THIS IS WORKING OUT ALL RIGHT! THAT'S CORK-SCREW COLLINS!
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, PLAS? IMAGINE HER PREFERRING A GUY LIKE THAT TO ME! WHY, HE ISN'T EVEN GOOD LOOKING!
SOME WOMEN JUST HAVE VERY POOR TASTE! EXCUSE ME!
NOW, IF I DON'T LET CORKSCREW OUT OF MY SIGHT, I MAY CATCH HIM PULLING SOMETHING!
HEY, PLAS! WAIT FOR ME!
THAT'S AN ODD LOOKING PLACE!
JUST A MINUTE, DEVASTATING DINAH, I'VE GOT TO PUT ON MY COSTUME!
NOW, UNDER IT BEHIND ME! ATTAGIRL··· AND ONLY MOVE WHEN I MOVE!

A WASTE OF TIME, MY DEAR CHAP!
HUH?
THOSE METHODS HAVE BEEN TRIED THOUSANDS OF TIMES AND THEY'VE NEVER PRODUCED THE MAGIC FORMULA! AS ONE SORCERER TO ANOTHER I'M GIVING IT TO YOU STRAIGHT!
GOSH! HE CALLED ME A SORCERER!
BUT WHY KNOCK YOURSELF OUT LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THAT I'VE ALREADY DISCOVERED?
YOU MEAN YOU HAVE THE MAGIC FORMULA?
WHAT ELSE?
GOODNESS! BUT ARE YOU SURE IT'LL CONJURE THINGS?
WATCH!
HOW'S THAT FOR CONJURING?
MARVELOUS!
AND SHE'S REAL!
SHE CERTAINLY IS... AND WINTHROP SNAVELY IS A REAL SUCKER!
5

THEY'RE ALL YOURS FOR A MERE FIFTY GRAND!
IT'S DIRT CHEAP!
BUT I WOULDN'T DREAM OF TAKING THEM ALL! YOU DISCOVERED THE FORMULA! YOU'RE ENTITLED TO AT LEAST ONE BOX!
ALL RIGHT IF YOU INSIST!
THIS IS IT! I'VE GOT CORKSCREW COLLINS COLD!
PLAS, I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU!
I WISH YOU HAD!
YOU GAVE HIM A START! I'LL HAVE TO NAB HIM OUTSIDE!
HOLD ON, CORKSCREW COLLINS!
PLASTIC MAN!
HOLD ON, HE SAYS! THINKS I'M NUTS!
TSK, TSK! AND THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ALL OVER WITH IF WOOZY HADN'T MADE ME TAKE MY EYES OFF COLLINS FOR A FEW SECONDS!

AT THAT MOMENT...
IT'S HER...THE WOMAN OF MY DREAMS!
I MUST GET IN THERE...MUST FIND SOME WAY TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL!
THIS SAP HASN'T EVEN BEGUN TO SHELL OUT! WAIT'LL I GET THROUGH WITH HIM!
IT'S NICE HAVING YOU HERE! IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE? ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WISH FOR IT AND I'LL CONJURE IT UP WITH THE MAGIC FORMULA!
ALL I WANT IS MY TRUE LOVE!
IT SHALL BE YOURS!
HE MUST BE IT!
AWRK!
DARLING, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU CARED!
KISS ME!
LET ME OUT OF HERE! I'VE GOT THE HORRORS!
WOMEN ARE SO UNPREDICTABLE!
ON THE MEANTIME...
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! PLASTIC MAN ALMOST HAD ME!

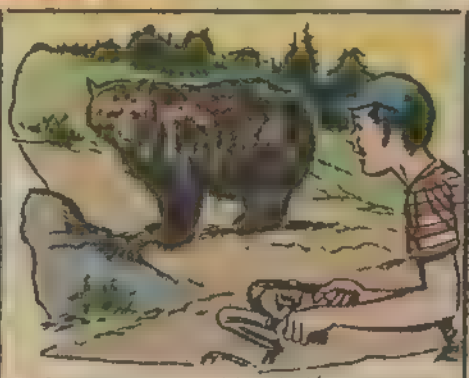
BUT HERE I AM SAFE AND SOUND WITH MY FIFTY G'S! HA! HA! WHAT A DOPE THAT SNAVELY WAS!
IMAGINE ANYBODY BELIEVING IN SORCERY AND WITCHCRAFT TO THE TUNE OF FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS! WELL, I WON'T NEED THIS POWDER ANYMORE!
SO YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN SORCERY AND WITCHCRAFT?
HUH? WHO SAID THAT?
I DID!
GRAWK!
COME HERE! I WANT TO TELL YOU MORE ABOUT IT!
HALP! I'M GETTING BATS IN MY BELFRY!
IT'S LOCKED! I DON'T REMEMBER WHERE I PUT THE KEY! HALP! I MUST GET OUT OF HERE!
SPEAKING OF BATS!
MORE THAN A MAN CAN STAND!

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE WHILE THE GETTING'S GOOD!
CORKSCREW, WAIT! DON'T GO WITHOUT ME!
DON'T RUN, HONEY! I'VE KNOCKED THIS BAT OUT FOR YOU!
OWWW! MY HEAD! WHAT HAPPENED?
PLASTIC MAN!
CORKSCREW GOT AWAY AGAIN! I CAN DEPEND ON YOU TO HELP HIM EVERY TIME!
BUT, PLAS, HOW WAS I TO KNOW YOU WERE A BAT?
YOU NUMBSKULL, I WAS TRYING TO GIVE CORK-SCREW COLLINS A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF HIS STUNTS!
WHERE'LL I LOOK FOR COLLINS NOW? AH··· HE LEFT THE LOOT! THAT MAY MEAN HE'LL GO BACK TO SNAVELY, HIS CURRENT SUCKER, TO TRY FOR MORE SO HE CAN MAKE A GET-AWAY!
DINAH, WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF TOWN OR PLASTIC MAN WILL HAVE US IN STIR IN NO TIME! IF ONLY I HADN'T LEFT MY DOUGH ON THE TABLE!
LET'S GET MORE DOUGH FROM SNAVELY!

YOU! YOUR FORMULA HAS NO POWER!
TSK! TSK! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE THAT HAS PLENTY!
YOU HAVE? WHAT IS IT?
THIS!
A WRONG IDEA, CORKSCREW! AND I'LL TAKE THE GUN!
OHHH! THIS IS TOO MUCH! I'D BETTER BE ON MY WAY!
YOU AGAIN! OH, I GIVE UP!
SWEETHEART, I NEVER DARED DREAM YOU'D MAKE IT THAT EASY FOR ME!
WOOZY, IF YOU'RE REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT HER YOU MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT TEN YEARS UNTIL SHE GETS OUT OF JAIL!
JAIL? :SNIFF: IMAGINE A NICE GIRL LIKE THAT A CROOK!
HERE'S YOUR FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, MR. SNAVELY, AND I SUGGEST YOU FORGET THIS NONSENSE ABOUT SORCERY! THERE'S NOTHING TO IT!
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
DO YOU KNOW I'VE OFTEN THOUGHT I MIGHT GO IN FOR ALCHEMY INSTEAD! THE ALCHEMISTS USED TO BELIEVE YOU COULD TURN BASE METALS INTO GOLD! BUT MY PROBLEM WILL BE WHAT TO DO WITH THE GOLD!
TAKE ME OUT OF HERE! HE'S BREAKING MY HEART!

"I bike-hiked through YELLOWSTONE PARK on my SHELBY GOLDEN EAGLE!"

My first stop was Old Faithful, the famous geyser. She spouts boiling hot water 150 feet in the air every 65 minutes—night and day!

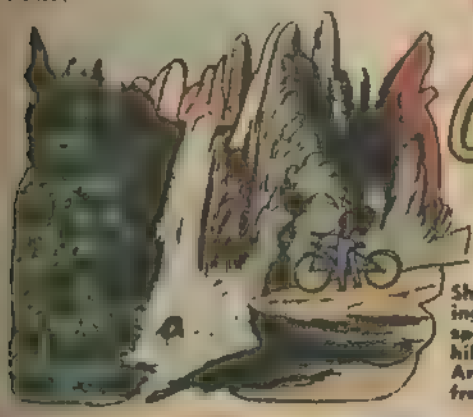


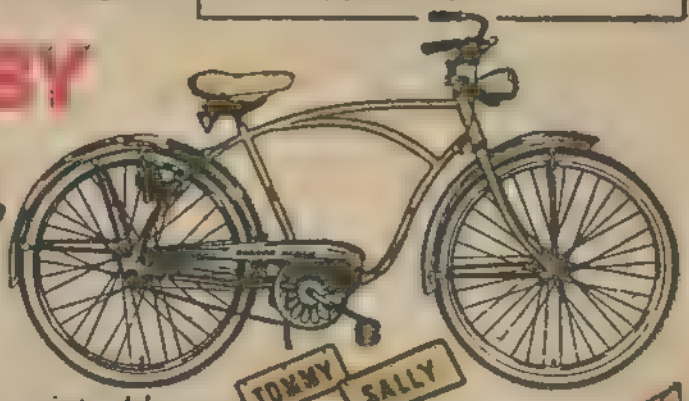
I came across a friendly-looking black bear. It's a good thing I didn't stop—I found out later they can be dangerous!

Gliding along on my Shelby, I saw a majestic-looking Golden Eagle—flying over a gigantic canyon.

Tower Falls was a beautiful sight. Water plunges 132 feet down over rugged boulders. And what a roar it makes!

SHELBY Golden Eagle





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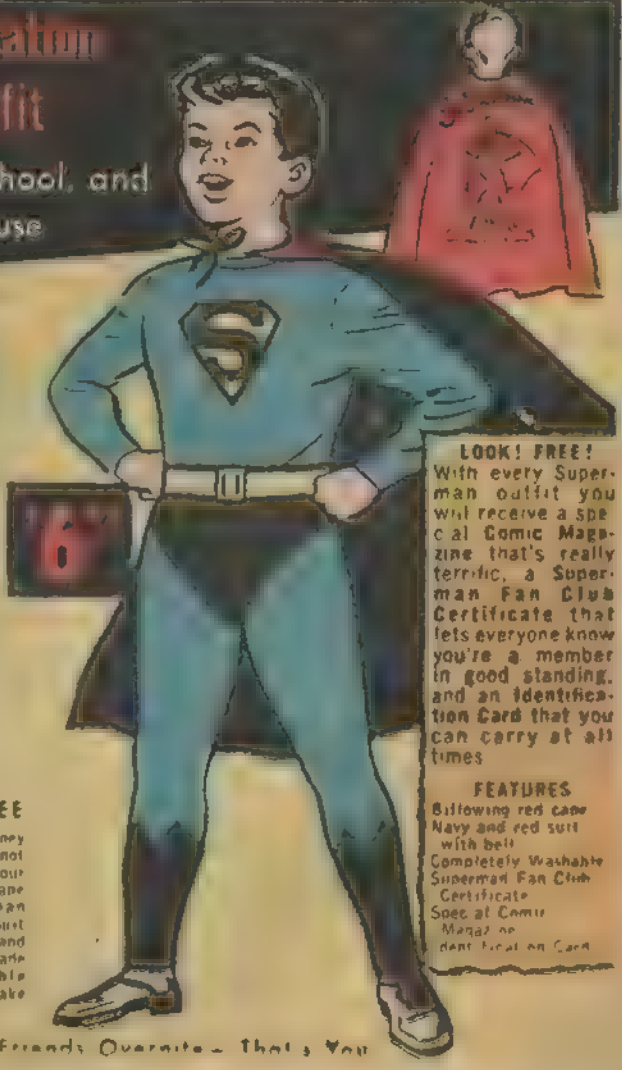

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FEATURES

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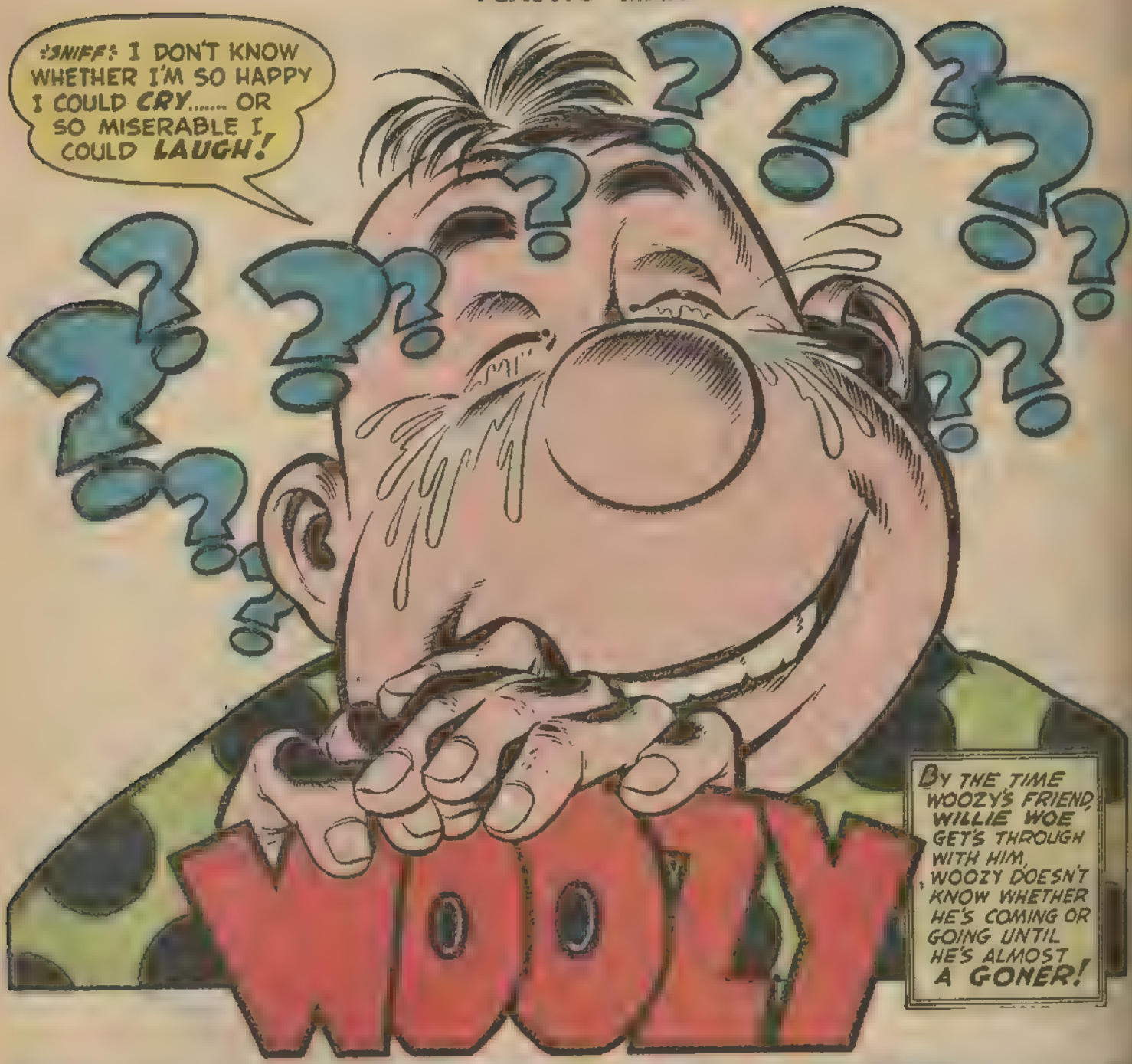
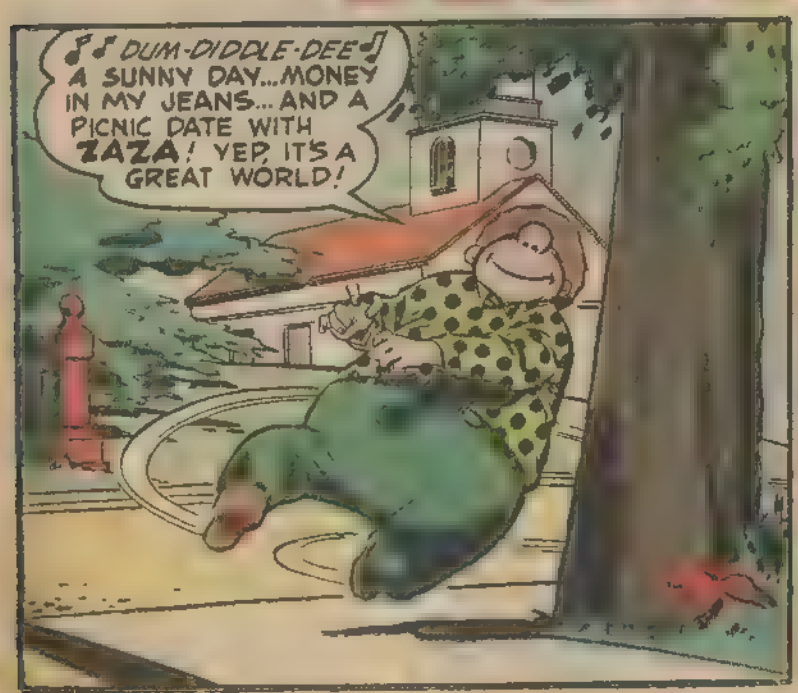
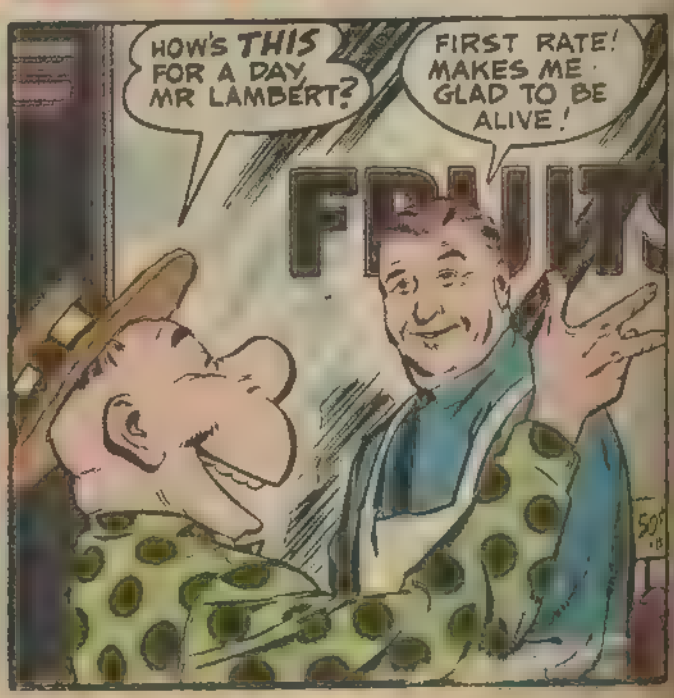
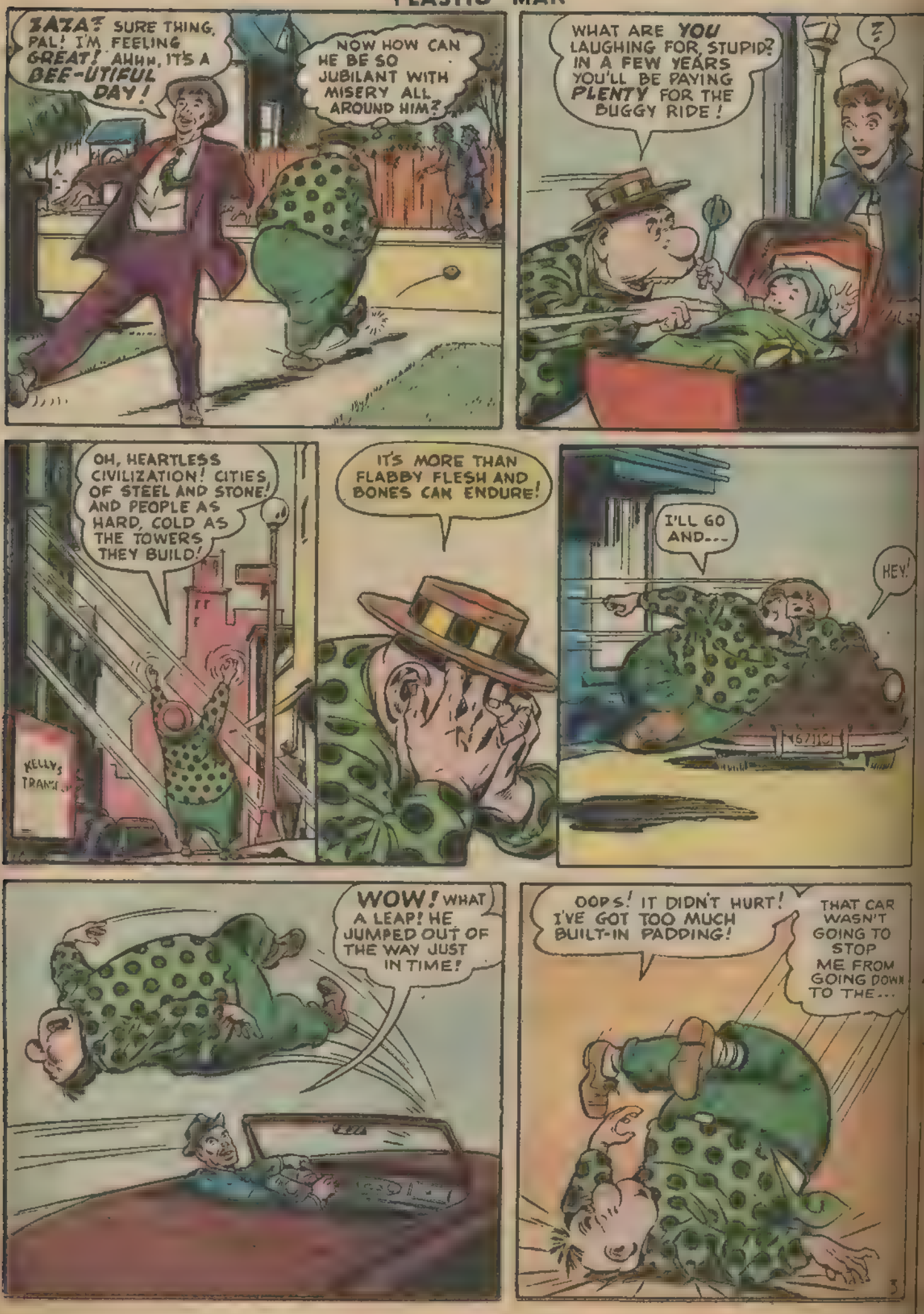
The Envy of Your Friends Overnite — That's You


:SNIFF: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY..... OR SO MISERABLE I COULD LAUGH!
WOOLY
BY THE TIME WOOZY'S FRIEND, WILLIE WOE GET'S THROUGH WITH HIM, WOOZY DOESN'T KNOW WHETHER HE'S COMING OR GOING UNTIL HE'S ALMOST A GONER!


♪♪ DUM-DIDDLE-DEE ♪♪ A SUNNY DAY...MONEY IN MY JEANS... AND A PICNIC DATE WITH ZAZA! YEP, IT'S A GREAT WORLD!

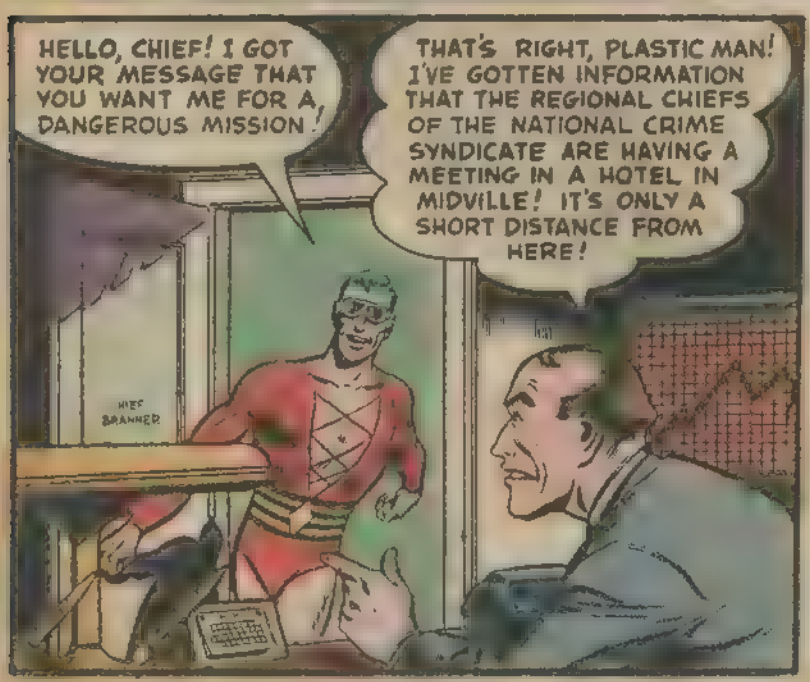

HOW'S THIS FOR A DAY, MR LAMBERT?
FIRST RATE! MAKES ME GLAD TO BE ALIVE!
FRUIT

AFTERNOON, MRS. DODDS! HI, TINA! LOVELY DAY, WHAT?
BEAUTIFUL, WOOZY... JUST BEAUTIFUL!
LO MITHTER WINKTH!
SWELL DAY, AINT IT, WILLIE?
NO!
NO?
HOW CAN YOU SAY A THING LIKE THAT, WILLIE, WHEN THERE'S A MILLION REASONS FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY!
NAME ONE!
WELL, GEE, YOU'VE GOT YOUR YOUTH, YOUR HEALTH... CLOTHES ON YOUR BACK... THREE SQUARES A DAY... YOU LIVE IN A FREE COUNTRY— WHY, YOU'RE A RICH MAN!
I'M SORRY, BUT I JUST CAN'T FEEL GOOD WITH THE WORLD GOING TO POT! TAXES UP.. H-BOMBS... PRICES UP... PEOPLE SUFFERING.....
BUT YOU CAN'T GO AROUND BEARING THE WORLD'S BURDENS! YOU'VE GOTTA LIVE FOR TODAY AND BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! BY GEORGE I'M GOING TO TAKE YOUR ADVICE! WHY, I FEEL BETTER ALREADY!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S A LOT IN WHAT YOU SAY!.. THE WORLD IS IN A MESS! UH.. DO ME A FAVOR WILLIE... TAKE ZAZA JONES TO THE ELK'S PICNIC FOR ME! I-I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD!


ZAZA? SURE THING, PAL! I'M FEELING GREAT! AHHH, IT'S A BEE-UTIFUL DAY!
NOW HOW CAN HE BE SO JUBILANT WITH MISERY ALL AROUND HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING FOR, STUPID? IN A FEW YEARS YOU'LL BE PAYING PLENTY FOR THE BUGGY RIDE!
Z!
OH, HEARTLESS CIVILIZATION! CITIES OF STEEL AND STONE! AND PEOPLE AS HARD, COLD AS THE TOWERS THEY BUILD!
IT'S MORE THAN FLABBY FLESH AND BONES CAN ENDURE!
I'LL GO AND...
HEY!
WOW! WHAT A LEAP! HE JUMPED OUT OF THE WAY JUST IN TIME!
OOPS! IT DIDN'T HURT! I'VE GOT TOO MUCH BUILT-IN PADDING!
THAT CAR WASN'T GOING TO STOP ME FROM GOING DOWN TO THE...

SOON...
HA-HA! ZAZA, YOU'RE A WHIZ!
WHY, THERE'S WOOZY! HEY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SICK AND HERE YOU ARE, GOIN' SWIMMING!
SHAME ON YOU, WOOZY WINKS— TRYING TO END IT ALL!
COME, COME, OLD MAN! YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING TO LIVE FOR!
GO AWAY, YOU THIEF! YOU STOLE MY HAPPY MOOD AND LEFT ME WITH YOURS!
AW, BUCK UP! JUST THINK OF ALL THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE, LIKE, TREES, BIRDS, SODA POP, DOUBLE FEATURES, TELEVISION—
SOB!- FOR EVERY GOOD THING, I CAN NAME TEN BAD THINGS! LIKE, MEASLES, POVERTY, B.O., TAXES, POISON IVY, SNAKES...
...AUTOS, CANDY, VACATIONS, GIRLS, MEDICINE, BASEBALL, CHRISTMAS, ELEVATORS, MUSIC, ASPIRINS...
..CASTOR OIL, COCKROACHES, HANGNAILS, PARKING TICKETS, TIGHT SHOES, AFTER-DINNER SPEAKERS, FLAT TIRES...
.. PICNICS, CAKE, ICE CREAM— OH, WHAT'S THE USE? YOU'RE RIGHT— LIFE IS A MESS OF MISERY!
PICNICS! CAKE! ICE CREAM!... YOU'RE RIGHT! LIFE IS A BUNDLE OF JOY!
OH, BOY! I FEEL GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT AN ELEPHANT! BRING ON YOUR PICNIC!
WELL, HAVE YOU FINALLY MADE UP YOUR MIND?
AW, DONT RUN OFF! STICK AROUND AND TALK AWHILE!
NOT ME! I'M QUITTIN' WHILE I'M AHEAD!

PLASTIC MAN
GEE, PLAS, WHEN DID YOU START GOING AROUND WITH SUCH TOUGH CHARACTERS?
HEY!
ULP!
HOTEL
IT LOOKED LIKE JUST A MEETING OF TWO BUSINESS MEN IN A QUIET HOTEL! BUT WHEN PLASTIC MAN FOUND THE LEADERS OF THE CRIME SYNDICATE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION HE INVITED HIMSELF IN! RESULT: A KNOCK-DOWN, SLAM BANG, ROUGH AND TUMBLE BATTLE WITH A PHOTO FINISH!


HELLO, CHIEF! I GOT YOUR MESSAGE THAT YOU WANT ME FOR A DANGEROUS MISSION!
THAT'S RIGHT, PLASTIC MAN! I'VE GOTTEN INFORMATION THAT THE REGIONAL CHIEFS OF THE NATIONAL CRIME SYNDICATE ARE HAVING A MEETING IN A HOTEL IN MIDVILLE! IT'S ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE!
WE KNOW THERE IS A CRIME CHIEF IN CHARGE OF THE EAST AND ONE IN CHARGE OF THE WEST! BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHO THESE CRIME LEADERS ACTUALLY ARE!

THESE MEN WILL PROBABLY BE HEAVILY GUARDED BUT I'M DEPENDING ON YOU TO GET A PHOTOGRAPH OF BOTH OF THEM SO THAT THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO TRACK THEM AND CRACK DOWN AT THE OPPORTUNE TIME!
RIGHT, CHIEF! I'LL TAKE WOOZY AND BE ON MY WAY!
ZOOM...ooo
..SO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS TAKE PICTURES OF THESE CRIME CHIEFS!
IS THAT WHAT THE CHIEF CALLS A TOUGH ASSIGNMENT FOR HIS TWO ACE CRIME FIGHTERS! TAKING PICTURES, HUH!
LATER...
HOTEL MIDVILLE
THAT'S THE ONLY HOTEL IN MIDVILLE SO I GUESS IT'S WHERE WE GO!
THOSE TWO MEN ARE BEING GUARDED BY ALL THOSE GUNMEN! THEY MUST BE THE MEN WE'RE AFTER!
P-PLAS, ALL THOSE M-MEN WITH GUNS! COULDN'T WE JUST WRITE TO THESE CRIME CHIEFS, TELL THEM THAT WE'RE THEIR FANS AND ASK FOR AN AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO?
ELEVATOR
WOOZY YOU STAY HERE AND HOLD THE CAMERA UNTIL WE NEED IT! I'M GOING TO FOLLOW THOSE MEN AND FIND OUT WHAT ROOM THEY'RE IN!
S-SURE, P-PLAS! YOU GO AHEAD! I'LL WAIT HERE!
ELEVATOR
HAH, BEAUTIFUL! YOU'RE MUCH TOO LOVELY TO WORK THAT SWITCHBOARD! I AM WOOZY WINKS THE ART PHOTOGRAPHER! SUCH SENSITIVITY! SUCH REFINEMENT! I CAN TELL YOU WERE MEANT TO BE AN ARTIST'S MODEL!
CHEE, WILL YOU SNAP MY PITCHER, HUH?
2
CLICK!
CLICK!
CLICK!
THERE, THAT'S THE END OF THE FILM!
CLICK!
CLICK!

HURRY UP WITH THAT CAMERA, WOOZY! I FOUND OUT THOSE TWO MEN ARE TRIGGER WHEEL AND SLUG BAXTER—AND I LEARNED WHAT ROOM THEY ARE IN!
BUT PLAS—
NOW WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE A WAY TO GET INTO THE ROOM WHILE THOSE GANGSTERS ARE GUARDING IT!
BUT PLAS, LISTEN TO M———
I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL POSE AS HOUSEMEN COMING TO CLEAN THE ROOM! HERE, GRAB A BROOM!
BUT PLAS, THE CAMERA—
MOP CLOSET
OKAY, I'LL TAKE THE CAMERA! NOW PLAY IT STRAIGHT AND WE'LL GET PAST THESE LUGS!
SORRY, BUT WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN THE ROOM NOW!
DAT'S OKAY! JUST DON'T ANNOY DA BOSSES!
YOU KNOW, PLAS, THIS ASSIGNMENT IS TOO MUCH LIKE REAL WORK!
CLICK!
KEEP MOVING THAT BROOM TO DISTRACT THEM! GOOD! I GOT THE PICTURE!
SLUG, WHAT WAS THAT CLICKING NOISE?
TRIGGER! STOP THEM! THEY TOOK OUR PICTURE!
START MOVING, WOOZY!

STOP THOSE MEN!
TAKE THAT CAMERA AWAY FROM THEM!
SURE, BOSS! COME ON, MEN!
THE MOP CLOSET! THEY'LL NEVER FIND US HERE!
MOP CLOSET
THEY WENT RIGHT PAST US!
WELL, AT LEAST WE GOT THE PICTURE! NOW....
BUT, PLAS, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU! YOU DIDN'T GET THE PICTURE BECAUSE I USED UP ALL THE FILM! OH, I'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL TO LET A PRETTY GIRL TURN MY HEAD!
YOU SURE ARE A FOOL! NOW THE ONLY THING LEFT FOR ME TO DO IS BRING IN BAXTER AND WHEEL THEM- [illegible] OF A PICTURE!
BUT THE HALLWAY IS FULL OF GUNMEN! IT WOULD BE SUICIDE TO GO OUT THERE!
THEN I'LL HAVE TO USE A DIFFERENT EXIT!
HELLO, GENTLEMEN! I DON'T THINK YOU WERE EXPECTING ME!
IT'S THE GUY WHO TOOK THE PICTURE!
I'LL GET THE BOYS, SLUG!
GET THAT GUY AND TAKE HIS CAMERA AWAY FROM HIM!
IF THE PICTURE OF US EVER GETS OUT, ALL THE COPS WILL BE ABLE TO SPOT US!

HEY! THE BULLETS DON'T HURT HIM!
COME ON! WE'LL ALL JUMP HIM AT ONCE!
DRAG HIM DOWN!
I GOT HIM!
THIS WON'T WORK SO WELL! I'D BETTER TRY DIFFERENT TACTICS!
I JUST HAD HIM! WHERE DID HE GO?
HE MUST HAVE GOTTEN OUT INTO THE HALL! COME ON! AFTER HIM!
NOW TO GO GET WOOZY!
PLAS, IS IT SAFE?
IT IS IN THERE, BUT YOU'RE COMING OUT! I WANT YOU TO TAKE THE CAMERA AND WALK DOWN THE HALL! STAY OUT THERE UNTIL THE GANG COMES BACK AND TAKES THE CAMERA FROM YOU! AFTER THEY'RE GONE GO DOWN TO THE CAR AND WAIT THERE!
BUT, PLAS, THOSE GUNMEN! THEY'LL KILL ME!
YOU GO AHEAD AND DO AS I TELL YOU!
TO THINK! MY LIFELONG FRIEND- SENDING ME OUT TO SURE DEATH!
HEY! THERE'S ONE OF THE GUYS THAT TOOK THE PICTURE AND HE'S GOT THE CAMERA!
5

QUICK! GRAB THAT CAMERA!
PLEASE, GENTLEMEN, SPARE MY LIFE! I WAS ONLY PURSUING MY HARMLESS HOBBY OF PHOTOGRAPHING IMPORTANT PEOPLE!
I GOT IT!
COME ON! LET'S GET BACK TO THE ROOM!
WHAT WILL MY WIFE AND EIGHTEEN CHILDREN— HUH! THEY DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH ME!
COME ON, TRIGGER, OPEN IT! WE'LL DESTROY THE NEGATIVE!
I'M HAVING TROUBLE!
YOUR TROUBLES ARE JUST BEGINNING!
YIPES! IT'S THAT GUY AGAIN!
THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING WITH ME!
HELP! BOYS! COME ON IN HERE!
COME ON, GANG, WE'LL BREAK THE DOOR IN!
WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO COME IN— COME IN!
HUH!
OOF!
HEY!

HEY, HE GOT AWAY AGAIN!
COME ON! WE'VE GOT TO SAVE TRIGGER AND SLUG!
FASTER! WE'LL GET THAT LONG-LEGGED MEDDLER!
HURRY! HE'S GETTING AWAY!
GET STARTED, WOOZY! WE'RE TAKING PASSENGERS!
START MOVING, WOOZY! I'LL HOLD OFF THEIR GUN-TOTING PARTNERS!
WHIRRR
HEY! WE CAN'T GET THROUGH THE DOOR! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY AND WE CAN'T STOP THEM!
NOW LETS GET BACK TO HEADQUARTERS, WOOZY! I THINK THE CHIEF IS GOING TO LIKE THE SUBSTITUTION OF THE REAL THING FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHS!
YOU CAN THANK ME, PLAS! WHEN I MESSED UP THE NEGATIVES I WAS POSITIVELY RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT DEVELOPED!

The Obvious Clue

"LIKE I says, see," explained Bernie Lamson with a twisted grin, "I was positive I couldn't get caught! It was a cinch! I had it all figured out, the perfect crime!"

"Sounds interesting," answered Jim Rand. "It's never been done before! Tell me about it!"

"Sure, I'll tell you! Simple, see? I was a twin."

"Yeah? How does that fit in?"

"Plenty! Barney and me, we was identical! Nobody could ever tell us apart. When we was kids, we wore different colored ties or hats or somethin'. Follow me?"

"I follow you. Go ahead with the story."

"Then we got big enough to go out with girls. We never paid much attention to who went on a date. The babes didn't know the difference anyway. So we'd swap. One night I'd take a dame out and the next night, Barney would take her out. And she'd never know who was which. That was kinda fun, till Dora came along."

Bernie sat silent for a few minutes and almost went soft. Jim watched and wondered what was going through his warped mind. Then he spoke and suggested that they go on with the story.

"Okay, okay," murmured Bernie. "I'll give ya the whole thing. Don't rush me. Ya see, Dora was my girl. I never liked anybody else. I wanted her and so did Barney, only she liked me. But Barney went to her—nobody could tell us apart, you remember? Barney went to her and said he was me, Bernie. He took her away. They eloped, I mean. Only she thought it was me and he took my name. Dirty trick and I never got over it!"

"I can understand that," sympathized Jim. "Only didn't she notice the difference?"

"Only that she got a raw deal. After she died, I made up my mind to get Barney if it was the last thing I ever did! I planned a long time before I got the pitch. But it was a smart scheme. Wait till I tell you."

Bernie curled the corners of his mouth, half with contempt and half with conceit. Jim waited, knowing that he would have to allow Bernie to take his own time with the morbid details.

"He was goin' under my name, see? But I still carried my G.I. insurance under my name for ten grand. So I waited a year so it would look on the level. And I moved and took his name. See what I mean? We'd switched places so he was me and I was him. I found out where he was and broke in at midnight. He was asleep and didn't know what hit him!"

"What did?" inquired Jim.

"A bullet! I threw the gun in the river, took the next train away from there and waited for word of my twin brother's murder. It came the next day!"

"What did you do?" Jim had to ask questions to keep the story flowing. If Bernie paused too long, he might decide not to talk about it.

"What? I went to the funeral! I carried on plenty! Then I collected the insurance—MY insurance but that was his name now. I identified him and so did several others. But MY insurance was made out to HIM! So *I* collected! Pretty pat, huh?"

"Up to now! Then," urged Jim, "then what happened?"

"The cops figured it was murder so they started lookin' for the killer. But I didn't worry none. The guy had it comin' and I was in the clear. To tell the truth, I felt bad about it. Honest! But, like I said, I felt good too. I got ten grand in insurance and no chance of bein' caught. The plan was foolproof!"

"I've gone along up to now, Bernie," Jim said. "Let's have the rest!"

"The cops are smart, Rand, and don't ever forget it. Nobody with any sense would try to fool 'em. Now go away!"

Jim Rand got up and walked through the door and closed it gently. He didn't have all the facts and he wanted them but he had to make a casual approach.

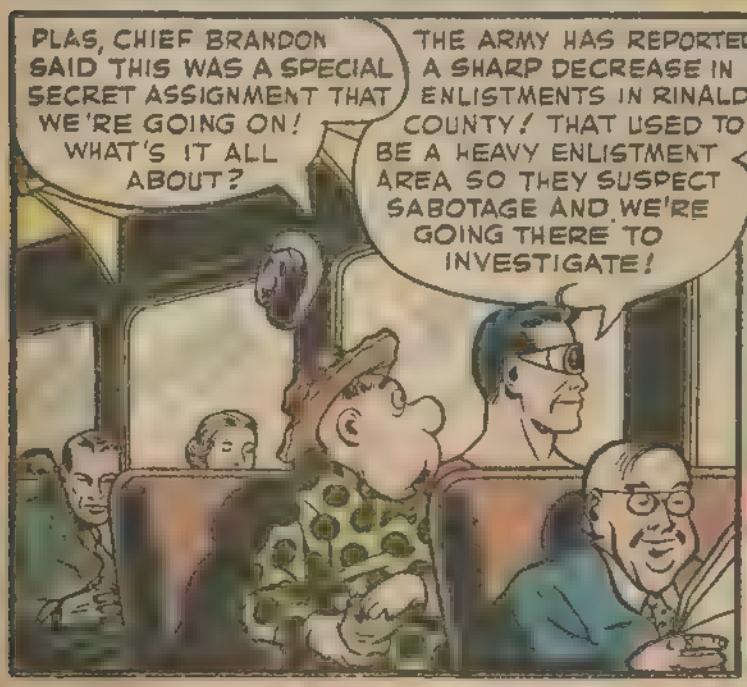
"Bernie," he said softly, "thanks for telling me all this. But what gave you away?"

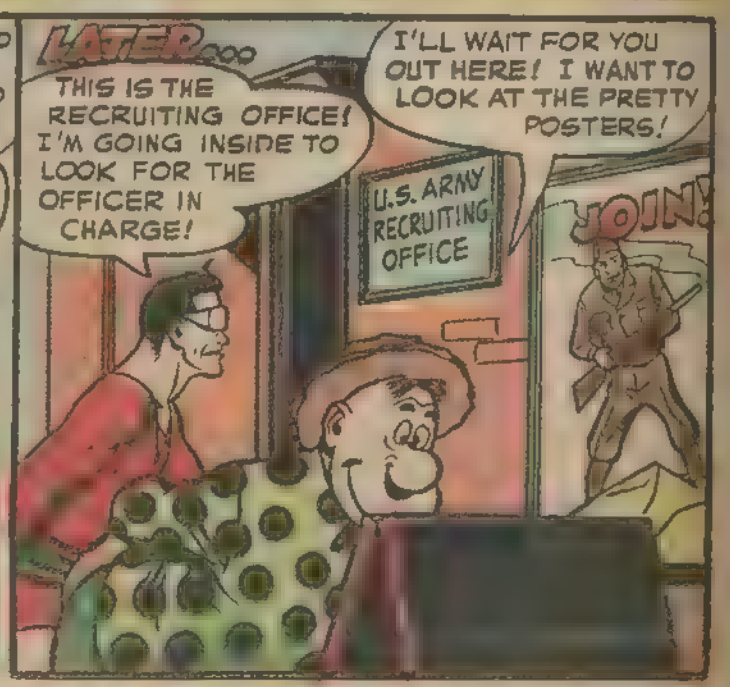
"Fingerprints!" Bernie answered and looked grim and hateful. "Even identical twins don't have the same fingerprints. Mine were on the insurance policy and also in Barney's apartment. The cops knew the difference. I slipped!"

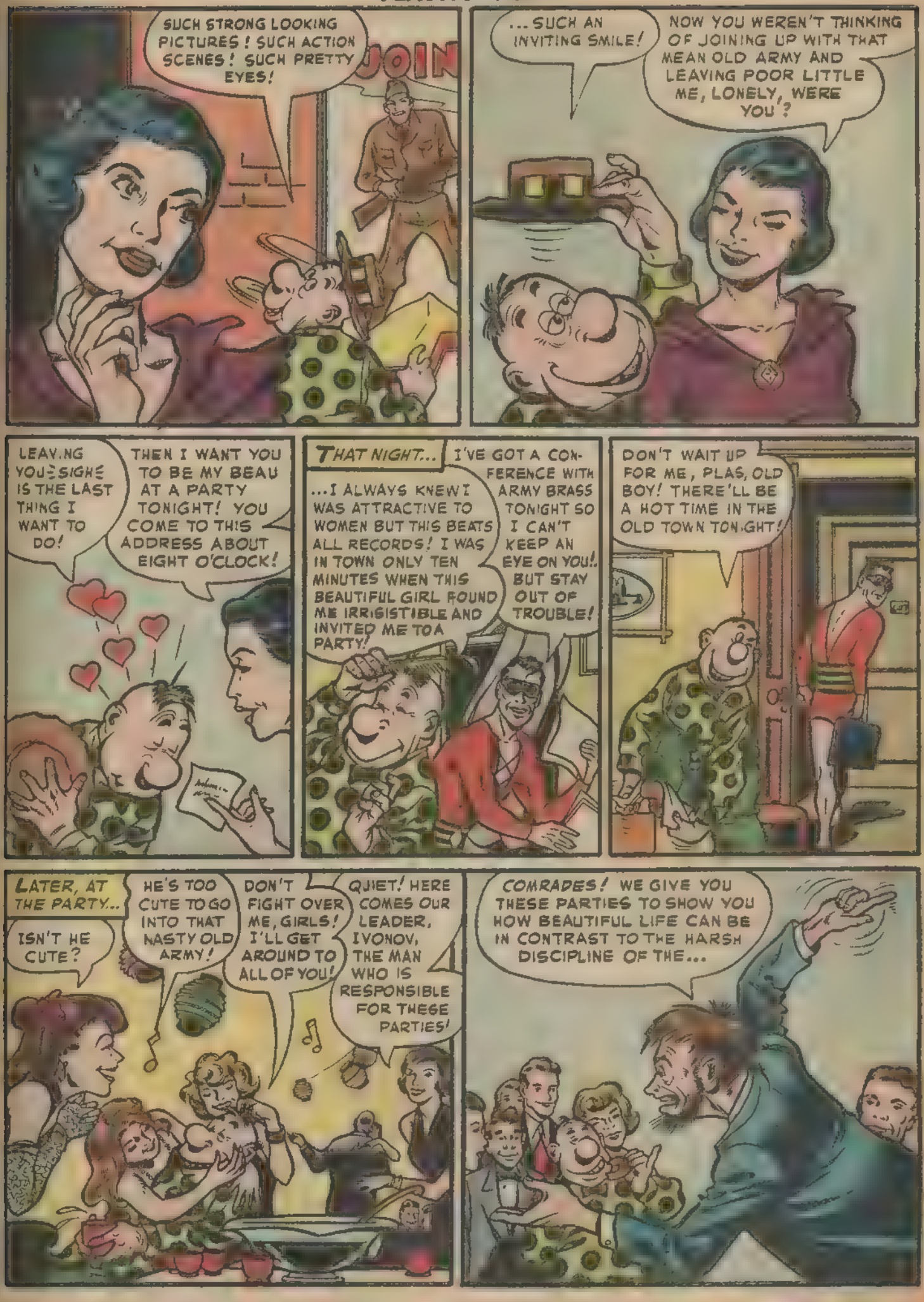
Bernie peered through the prison bars as Jim walked away. "I got caught, after all," he smirked. "But you gotta admit I almost won! See what a pitch? I murdered myself!"

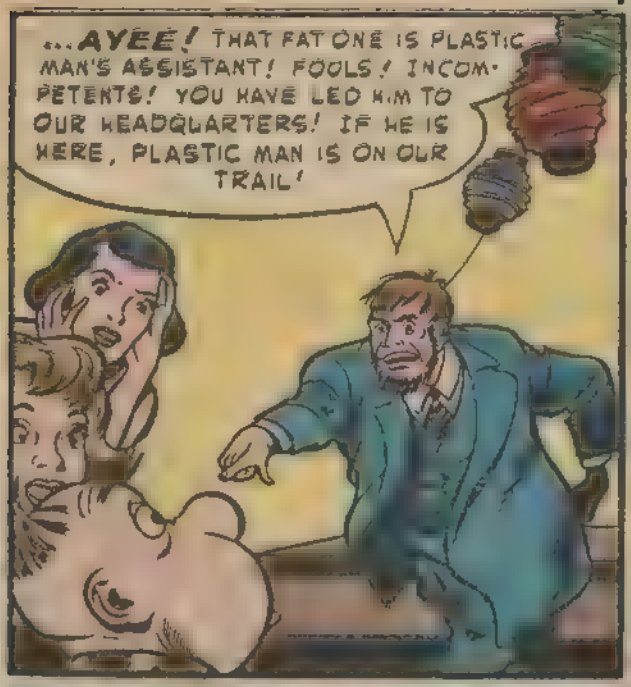
Jim Rand walked away, feeling a little bad about bleeding a guy for a confession! But he was a reporter, out to get a story!

PLASTIC MAN
U.S. ARMY RECRUITING STATION
UNCLE SAM WANTS
YOU
BUT, PLAS, THEY WANT ME, TOO!
THE ARMY NEEDS MEN! BUT IT SEEMS THEY WERE RUNNING INTO COMPETITION FROM A SCHEMING GROUP ENGAGED IN A NEFARIOUS SUBVERSIVE PLOT! READ WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PLASTIC MAN TANGLES WITH THE TENTACLES OF THE UNDERGROUND GROUP KNOWN AS THE ARMY SABOTEURS!


PLAS, CHIEF BRANDON SAID THIS WAS A SPECIAL SECRET ASSIGNMENT THAT WE'RE GOING ON! WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
THE ARMY HAS REPORTED A SHARP DECREASE IN ENLISTMENTS IN RINALD COUNTY! THAT USED TO BE A HEAVY ENLISTMENT AREA SO THEY SUSPECT SABOTAGE AND WE'RE GOING THERE TO INVESTIGATE!


LATER...
THIS IS THE RECRUITING OFFICE! I'M GOING INSIDE TO LOOK FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE!
I'LL WAIT FOR YOU OUT HERE! I WANT TO LOOK AT THE PRETTY POSTERS!
U.S. ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE
JOIN!

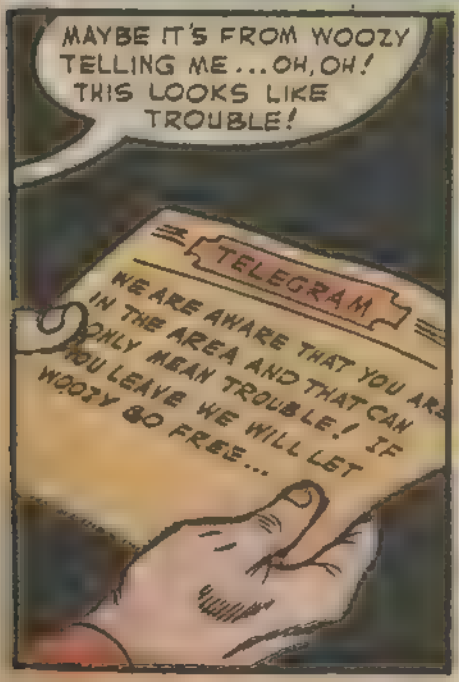

SUCH STRONG LOOKING PICTURES! SUCH ACTION SCENES! SUCH PRETTY EYES!
JOIN
...SUCH AN INVITING SMILE!
NOW YOU WEREN'T THINKING OF JOINING UP WITH THAT MEAN OLD ARMY AND LEAVING POOR LITTLE ME, LONELY, WERE YOU?
LEAVING YOU? SIGH! IS THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO!
THEN I WANT YOU TO BE MY BEAU AT A PARTY TONIGHT! YOU COME TO THIS ADDRESS ABOUT EIGHT O'CLOCK!
THAT NIGHT...
...I ALWAYS KNEW I WAS ATTRACTIVE TO WOMEN BUT THIS BEATS ALL RECORDS! I WAS IN TOWN ONLY TEN MINUTES WHEN THIS BEAUTIFUL GIRL FOUND ME IRRISISTIBLE AND INVITED ME TO A PARTY!
I'VE GOT A CONFERENCE WITH ARMY BRASS TONIGHT SO I CAN'T KEEP AN EYE ON YOU! BUT STAY OUT OF TROUBLE!
DON'T WAIT UP FOR ME, PLAS, OLD BOY! THERE'LL BE A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT!
LATER, AT THE PARTY...
ISN'T HE CUTE?
HE'S TOO CUTE TO GO INTO THAT NASTY OLD ARMY!
DON'T FIGHT OVER ME, GIRLS! I'LL GET AROUND TO ALL OF YOU!
QUIET! HERE COMES OUR LEADER, IVONOV, THE MAN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE PARTIES!
COMRADES! WE GIVE YOU THESE PARTIES TO SHOW YOU HOW BEAUTIFUL LIFE CAN BE IN CONTRAST TO THE HARSH DISCIPLINE OF THE...


...AYEE! THAT FAT ONE IS PLASTIC MAN'S ASSISTANT! FOOLS! INCOMPETENTS! YOU HAVE LED HIM TO OUR HEADQUARTERS! IF HE IS HERE, PLASTIC MAN IS ON OUR TRAIL!

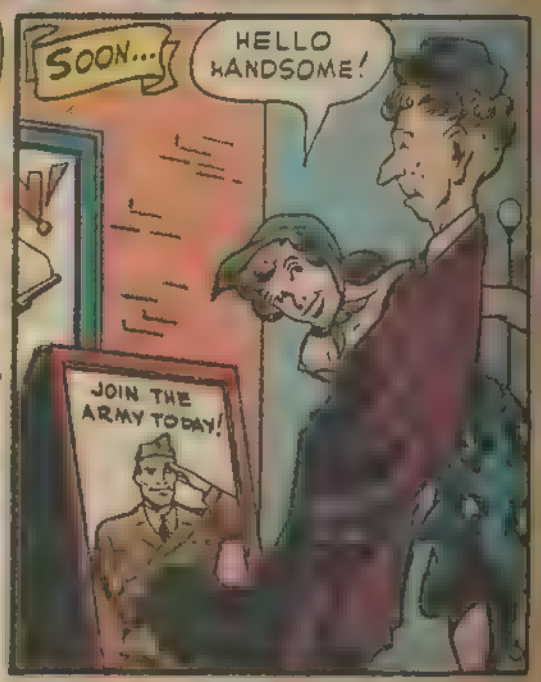
SEIZE HIM! WE WILL HOLD HIM AS A HOSTAGE IN CASE WE HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE LAW!
HEY! WHAT KIND OF A PARTY GAME IS THIS?

THROW HIM IN THE SEALED ROOM! HE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THERE!
I WAS GOING TO PLAY POST OFFICE BUT IT LOOKS AS IF I'M GOING TO THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE!

NEXT MORNING AT THE HOTEL...
WOOZY DIDN'T COME HOME LAST NIGHT AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM! I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT PARTY WAS SO I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO START LOOKING ...HUH! WHAT'S THAT?
TELEGRAM FOR PLASTIC MAN!
KNOCK! KNOCK!

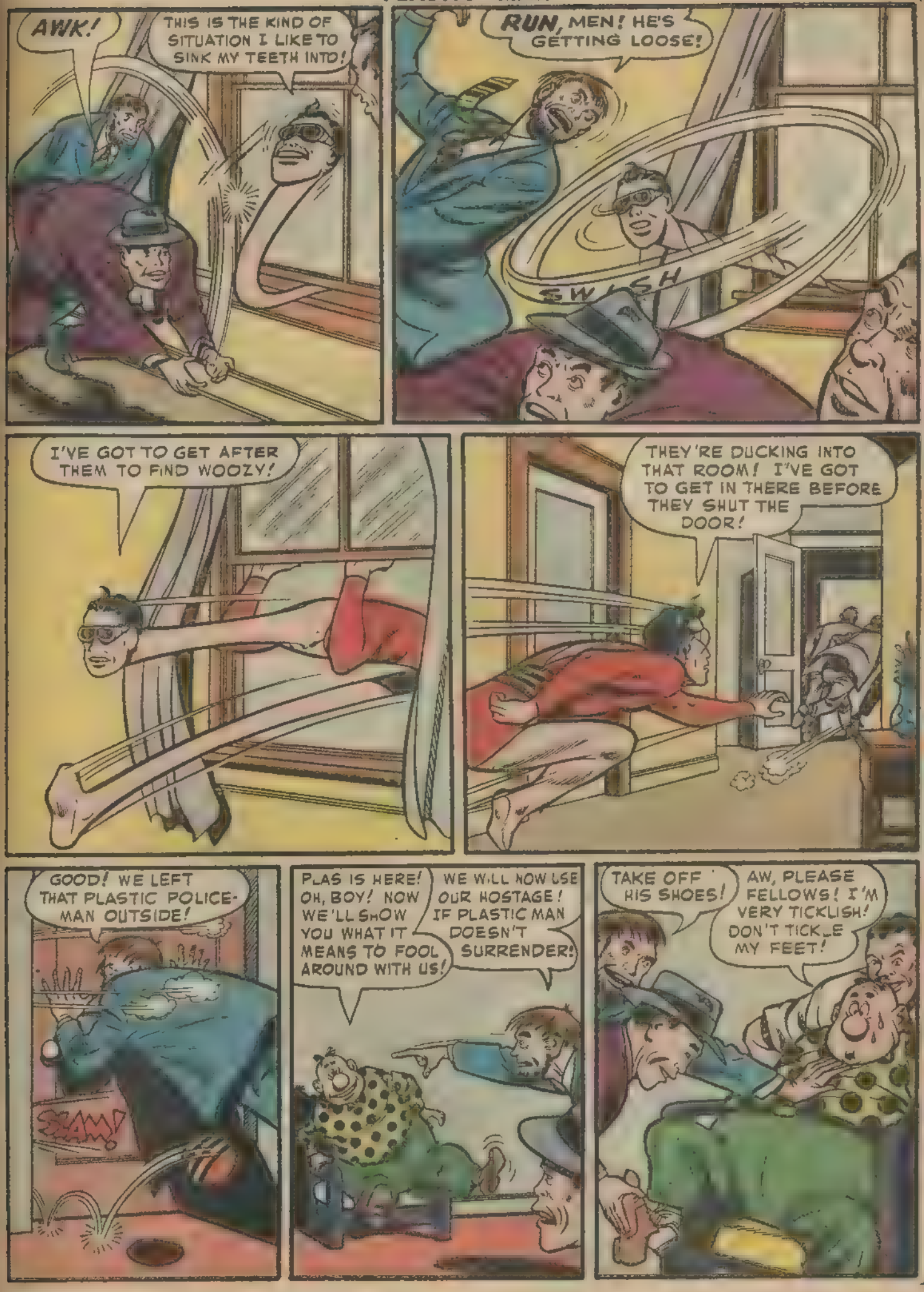

MAYBE IT'S FROM WOOZY TELLING ME...OH, OH! THIS LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE!
TELEGRAM
WE ARE AWARE THAT YOU ARE IN THE AREA AND THAT CAN ONLY MEAN TROUBLE! IF YOU LEAVE WE WILL LET WOOZY GO FREE...

I REALIZE NOW THAT WOOZY WAS INVITED TO A PARTY BY THE SUBVERSIVES WE'RE AFTER! IF I COULD ONLY FIND OUT WHERE THE PARTY WAS HELD... WAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA!


SOON...
HELLO HANDSOME!
JOIN THE ARMY TODAY!

DUH!
COME ON AWAY FROM THAT RECRUITING OFFICE!
HERE, YOU COME TO A PARTY AT THIS ADDRESS TONIGHT AND WE'LL SHOW YOU WHERE YOU CAN HAVE MORE FUN THAN IN THE ARMY!
THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW!
EEEK!
YOU HOLD ON TO HER! I'M GOING OUT AFTER THE REST OF THE GANG!
U.S. ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE
I'D BETTER HURRY! THEY MIGHT CARRY OUT THEIR THREAT AGAINST WOOZY!
THE ADDRESS THAT GIRL GAVE ME IS DIRECTLY ACROSS TOWN!
...AND THIS IS THE QUICKEST WAY TO GET THERE!

THIS IS THE PLACE!
WOOZY MUST BE IN ONE OF THESE ROOMS!
MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HOUSE..
IT'S PLASTIC MAN! GET READY FOR WHEN HE STICKS HIS HEAD IN HERE!
SO! NOW WE HAVE THE OTHER HALF OF THE TEAM!
HEY! WHAT TH?
WE'LL GET RID OF BOTH OF THEM AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO STOP ARMY ENLISTMENTS WITHOUT INTERFERENCE!
JOSEPH! COME HERE! LISTEN! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE GREAT TRICKS PLASTIC MAN CAN DO WITH HIS BODY BUT WE WILL MAKE SURE WE DESTROY HIM!
KNOCK HIS BLOCK OFF!
IT WILL BE A PLEASURE!
I'VE GOT TO TIME THIS RIGHT


AWK!
THIS IS THE KIND OF SITUATION I LIKE TO SINK MY TEETH INTO!
RUN, MEN! HE'S GETTING LOOSE!
SWISH
I'VE GOT TO GET AFTER THEM TO FIND WOOZY!
THEY'RE DUCKING INTO THAT ROOM! I'VE GOT TO GET IN THERE BEFORE THEY SHUT THE DOOR!
GOOD! WE LEFT THAT PLASTIC POLICE-MAN OUTSIDE!
SLAM!
PLAS IS HERE! OH, BOY! NOW WE'LL SHOW YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO FOOL AROUND WITH US!
WE WILL NOW USE OUR HOSTAGE! IF PLASTIC MAN DOESN'T SURRENDER!
TAKE OFF HIS SHOES!
AW, PLEASE FELLOWS! I'M VERY TICKLISH! DON'T TICKLE MY FEET!

FOOL! WE WILL TEACH PLASTIC MAN A LESSON...! WHEN HE FINDS HIS PAL WOOZY...
NO! NO! CAN'T WE TALK THIS OVER? I'M TOO YOUNG AND HANDSOME.. I WANT TO SUGGEST SOME OTHER IDEAS... MANY OTHER IDEAS...
SUDDENLY...
PUT YOUR GUNS DOWN, COMRADES!
HUH!
THE STATUE SPEAKS! IT IS A MIRACLE!
YOUR COMMAND IS OBEYED, MASTER!
YOU STAY OVER IN THE CORNER FOR SAFEKEEPING!
PLAS! WE'RE SAVED!
IT'S PLASTIC MAN! WE'VE BEEN TRICKED!
YOU'RE NOT ONLY GOING TO BE TRICKED... YOU'RE GOING TO BE SLUGGED!
BAM!
...AND THEN JUGGED!
LATER...
I WANT TO THANK YOU, PLAS, FOR BRINGING IN THE LEADERS OF THE SUBVERSIVE GROUP. I'LL HAVE MY MEN BRING IN ANY ACCOMPLICES STILL A-ROUND!
AND I'LL HELP YOU ROUND UP THE GIRLS, COLONEL!
NO YOU DON'T! YOU'RE GOING HOME!

Boys! Girls! Mothers! Dads!

TAKE 'EM FREE!

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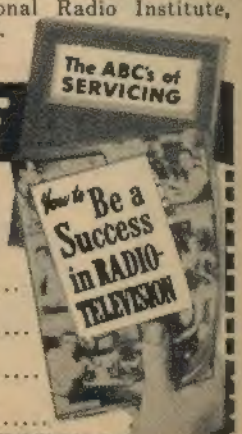

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